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Martin Luther King once said, 'True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.' This quote truly embodies the many experiences I've gone through in life. Many days I struggle with two issues that challenge my everyday life. I was raised by God-fearing parents, and the knowledge of what Dr. King endured. Along with faith and his knowledge! these are the only things I can rely on to keep me going.

A few years ago, as I was walking in my neighborhood with some of my friends, who happened to be white, a police officer approached us. Not all of my friends lived in this neighborhood, but the officer turned to me and asked me "if I lived around here." When I answered "yes", he continued asking if I was sure. Of course I was sure, I've lived in this neighborhood for many years. I kept calm because as a christian, I was always taught to rely on my faith during difficult times. Because of his ignorance, I am certain I am not the only young black man with a version of this same story.

Being a black man in America, is a condition that makes life difficult, and it is a condition that requires tremendous faith. In spite of many in the media referring to our country as a post-racial society, racism in the United States is very real, and it is as destructive and infuriating as it ever has been. I face racism daily. Every day in school I face challenges relating to my race that tests my faith.

Many of my teachers slack off when it comes to helping me. They assume I will not succeed in life, they assume my parents won't advocate for me like white parents would for their children. They also assume that I live in the bad part of town, when in reality, I probably live in a nicer area than most of them.

In the minds of some members of society, the expectation about what my life should be, fits a negative narrative that has never been mine. It is true that some black people struggle, but that's true of all people, and I wish everyone could understand that. Even so, as depressing as these experiences have been, nothing is as demoralizing and dangerous for a black man as dealing with bigoted police officers. After reading the famous " I have a dream" speech. The most intriguing line in the speech reads, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but the content of their character." Fifty five years later, Dr. King's dream is still a dream, because I, and many others are judged by the color of our skin, not by the content of our character.

As Dr. King's legacy lives on, his dream also continues to live on. Dr. King never gave up on the woes in life, therefore, I will never give up. As Dr. King lived his life, I will continue to live my life with patience and tolerance.